

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video-signal recording and playback apparatus for recording and playing back a video signal of a television-broadcast program, said video-signal recording and playback apparatus comprising:

recording means for recording a video signal onto an information-recording medium;

extracting means for extracting a representative picture from a video signal to be recorded;

attaching means for attaching an evaluation value to a representative picture extracted by said extracting means;

preserving means for preserving a representative picture extracted by said extracting means in said information-recording medium; and

thinning means for carrying out a thinning process on a number of representative pictures preserved by said preserving means in said information-recording medium on the basis of said evaluation value attached by said attaching means.

2. A video-signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said extracting means, said attaching means, said preserving means and said thinning means are capable of carrying out their respective pieces

of processing concurrently with processing carried out by said recording means to record a video signal onto said information-recording medium.

3. A video-signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said attaching means is capable of attaching an evaluation value to a representative picture by reducing evaluation values of representative pictures adjacent on the time axis.

4. A video-signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said attaching means is capable of attaching evaluation values to representative pictures in such a way that said evaluation values are dispersed along said time axis.

5. A video-signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said thinning means is capable of carrying out a thinning process on representative pictures recorded by said preserving means on said information-recording medium on the basis of resemblance of said representative pictures.

6. A video-signal recording and playback method adopted in a video-signal recording and playback apparatus for recording and playing back a video signal of a television-broadcast program, said video-signal recording and playback method comprising:

a recording step of recording a video signal onto an information-recording medium;

an extracting step of extracting a representative picture from said video signal to be recorded;

an attaching step of attaching an evaluation value to said representative picture extracted at said extracting step;

a preserving step of preserving said representative picture extracted at said extracting step in said information-recording medium; and

a thinning step of carrying out a thinning process on a number of representative pictures preserved at said preserving step in said information-recording medium on the basis of said evaluation value attached by said attaching means.

7. A recording medium for storing a program to be executed by a video-signal recording and playback apparatus for recording and playing back a video signal of a television-broadcast program, wherein said program is a computer readable program, said program comprises:

a recording step of recording a video signal onto an information-recording medium;

an extracting step of extracting a representative picture from said video signal to be recorded;

an attaching step of attaching an evaluation value to said representative picture extracted at said extracting step;

a preserving step of preserving said representative picture extracted at said extracting step in said information-recording medium; and

a thinning step of carrying out a thinning process on a number of representative pictures preserved at said preserving step in said information-recording medium on the basis of said evaluation value attached by said attaching means.